



U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
The Heartland Region



General Services Administration

Work Order 7

Environmental and Cultural Services

MO0000AE

Hardesty Federal Complex

Kansas City, Missouri



CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

**HARDESTY FEDERAL CENTER
607 HARDESTY AVENUE
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI**

**GS06P98GYD0018
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Prepared for:

**UNITED STATES GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
Kansas City, Missouri**

Prepared by:

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Kansas City, Missouri**

INTRODUCTION

In anticipation of the disposal of the Hardesty Federal Complex property (formerly the Kansas City Quartermaster Depot, and herein referred to as such) located in Kansas City, Missouri, mitigation measures were developed through a Memorandum of Agreement with the owner of the property, General Services Administration, in conjunction with the Historic Preservation Program, Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The mitigation measures included additional research to detail activities that occurred at the complex during and after World War II when it functioned as a Quartermaster Depot, and to place those activities in the context of other such depots in the overall war effort. Three Gables Preservation was hired to conduct this research. Deon Wolfenbarger served as project manager, with Brad Finch assisting.

METHODOLOGY

Archival research was conducted for the former Kansas City Quartermaster Depot site. Sources originally consulted for the preliminary evaluation in 1997 were reviewed, and included files at the Kansas City Landmarks Commission at City Hall in Kansas City, Missouri; the Missouri Valley Room at the Kansas City Public Library; and the building files at GSA in Kansas City, Missouri. Historical monographs prepared for the Department of the Army provided general historic context for the United States Quartermaster Corps. Files specific to the functions of the Kansas City Quartermaster Depot were examined at the Kansas City branch of the National Archives. As is typical of many such operations, a great deal of information was available on the "start-up" or the beginning of the Quartermaster operations at the Hardesty site. Specifics relating to the shut-down or closing of the site were sparse, and details were not available among the files located at the National Archives branch in Kansas City.

UNITED STATES QUARTERMASTER CORPS: *HISTORIC CONTEXT*

Background development

Military historians have spent centuries researching and writing about strategy and tactics, often ignoring the more mundane topics concerning the day-to-day logistics of the military. However, around World War II, the study of the history of the logistical operations of the military was increasingly recognized as critical to insure smooth operations in the future. To those responsible for responding to the crisis of World War II in the Quartermaster Corps, for example, it was clear that operational histories would have greatly aided the effort at the time. Without the knowledge of what did and did not work beforehand, many mistakes from World War I were initially repeated as the United States quickly geared up to respond to the new war. The supply lessons learned painfully under the pressure of one war were often completely lost to quartermasters removed from the demands of war by decades of peace. We now better understand the vital role that logistics -- the supply of personnel and equipment for battle -- plays in warfare.¹

The Quartermaster Corps is one of the oldest and most important supply agencies of the United States Army. Its origins can be traced to 16 June 1775, when the Second Continental Congress passed a resolution to create the position of a "quarter master general."² Operating within what was first known as the Quartermaster's Department, the agency initially followed the example set by the British army to shelter and provision the Army. Over the next two centuries, the Quartermaster's Department suffered many tribulations, including temporary extinction on several occasions. The first of these occurred right after the Revolutionary War when the department was competing against various other agencies or personnel which had been assigned to supplying the Army. The job of Quartermaster was thus viewed as superfluous, and it ceased to exist in the post-Revolutionary period. At this time, it was decided that the duties of providing the small peacetime Army with rations and quarters would fall to the Secretary of

War. The fact that Secretary had enough responsibilities and should be relieved of such duties wasn't seen as reason enough to reinstate the Quartermaster Department. It wasn't until the War of 1812 that the military realized that the Army must function efficiently in peace in order to be able to quickly gear up for war, and that a permanent supplies department would better be able to handle such military emergencies. A fundamental change in the concept of the Quartermaster Department occurred in 1818, and the tenure of the Quartermaster General was no longer limited to a war period.³ The first Quartermaster Depot was established this year in Washington, D.C., and it served as a storage facility for quartermaster supplies and records.

The Civil War introduced a divisional organization of duties under the Quartermaster so that it now operated largely along commodity lines. Other primary depots had been established, and were involved with supplying the Union Army with clothing, equipment, animals, forage and transportation. Additionally, increasing workloads for the Quartermaster Department eventually necessitated hiring civilian employees, and after the Civil War, the practice of female clerks became common. Civilian workers were often difficult to control, however, and when civilians were not available, commanders detailed soldiers on extra duty. This posed a hardship on the Army, and the militarization of the Corps was a reform that was finally achieved in 1912.⁴ The service corps of men proved so useful during World War I that by the end of the war, there were 26 different types of units in the Quartermaster Corps in the A.E.F.

Originally the Quartermaster General was responsible for quartering the troops, although his primary function was the transportation of men and supplies. Procurement was limited to the purchase of tents and other supplies for quarters. Throughout the nineteenth century, transportation and construction continued to be the major functions of the Quartermaster's Department. The changes in warfare during the Civil War ultimately brought a major reassignment of Quartermaster responsibilities. Transportation was made a separate agency, and by World War II, the responsibility for transportation and construction were permanently removed from the Corps. Instead, the Quartermaster Corps emerged in the decades before World War II as the Army's chief supply agency.

After any war, Congress usually focused on reducing costs in the War Department. This meant demobilizing the Army, releasing rented storage facilities, and disposing of surplus supplies. When any war broke out, though, the Quartermaster General was at once required to transport, shelter, clothe, and equip a rapidly expanding force. After the Civil War, for example, there was no incentive for maintaining a progressive agency and the Quartermaster's Department just drifted. When the Spanish-American War broke out, however, supply broke down when the Department was suddenly called upon to clothe and equip more than 250,000 men (compared to the peacetime force of 26,000). Troops were sent to the tropics with winter uniforms, and the congestion of supplies and men at ports of embarkation was unbelievable.⁵ Investigations and recommendations after this fiasco resulted in legislation which consolidated the Army Subsistence, Pay, and Quartermaster's departments, and up to the beginning of World War I, the Corps level of responsibility throughout the Army Department was at its most widespread.

When World War I began, the Office of the Quartermaster General (OQMG) was still organized on a commodity basis consisting of five divisions -- Administrative, Finance and Accounting, Construction and Repair, Transportation, and Supplies. The office's functions were largely administrative and supervisory, as the operations of procurement and distribution were decentralized to the field.⁶ The distribution of supplies was taken care of by the post and camp quartermasters, who in turn submitted requisitions to the quartermasters of the territorial departments. There were seven general depots and other specialized depots which had been designated as points of supply. This decentralization led to several difficulties, though, as each supply bureau worked independently of all others. Competition for materials, facilities, and transportation was compounded by typical wartime shortages, and the need for more centralized control became evident.⁷ The failure to plan in advance for mobilization, as well as other problems, led to yet another reorganization in 1920. The lessons of World War I were soon forgotten, however, as many people believed it was meant to be "the war to end wars." A victory indicated that this was achieved, and complacency set in as the Corps was reorganized for peacetime. Public indifference to the Army prevailed, and the supply bureau slipped into the typical state of unpreparedness that preceded every war.⁸

World War II and the Quartermaster Corps

The story of the Quartermaster Corps in World War II is a vast and complex history, requiring volumes in even an abridged form. A complete understanding cannot be presented in a succinct manner, but for the purposes of this report, those aspects which more closely pertain to the development of the Kansas City Quartermaster Depot will be outlined. At the onset of World War II, the rapid expansion of the Army placed unexpected demands on the Quartermaster Corps, which in turn required organizational readjustment in the middle of certain operations, improvisation in other areas, and the cessation of some operations that proved inadequate. The mission of the Quartermaster Corps during World War II was to supply the troops with food, clothing, equipage, fuel, and general supplies. These needed to be supplied in proper quantity, quality, and delivered at the right time and in the right place.

When the war began in Europe in September 1939, the Quartermaster Corps (QMC) was a small supply agency of the War Department, although it did have some potential for expansion in an emergency. Its activities were directed through a Washington headquarters, and it was organized on a commodity basis. Field installations, such as depots, procured and distributed the supplies, and certain Quartermaster schools trained the military personnel required by the Corps itself. Most of the depots were located in the eastern half of the United States (see figure 1), which proved unfortunate for the coming war in the Pacific

The QMC was able to handle the initial limited increase of approximately 17,000 men in the Army in 1939, which increased its size to 227,000 troops. However, the dramatic enlargement of the Army after the fall of France to 1,400,000 men in September 1940 placed a great deal of pressure on the QMC.⁹ To meet these needs brought on by the vastly expanded Army, as well as to meet new responsibilities imposed on the QMC, the Corps was obviously required to expand its personnel and organization both in Washington and the field. The headquarters went from four to thirteen divisions, and increased its military personnel from less than 12,000 to more than 500,000. The field organization was greatly expanded as well, with depots quickly established in the south and western half of the United States. New training centers, such as those for dogs in war, were also established. Repair sub-depots and expanded repair shops resulted from the shortage of supplies and the need to conserve materials.¹⁰

In the initial emergency period, the commodity organization was simply expanded. However, Pearl Harbor initiated more radical changes. The OQMG shifted from a commodity organization to a functional basis. Under commodity organization, each of the various commodity branches was responsible for the procurement of the various items, their storage, and eventual distribution. With the change to a functional basis, instead of a single commodity branch being responsible for the procurement and distribution of specific items of supply (such as footwear at the Boston Quartermaster Depot), single divisions were responsible solely for the procurement of most supplies, or for their storage and distribution.¹¹ This change occurred in the midst of the war, during a drastic and fundamental reorganization of the War Department in March 1942.

World War II not only resulted in administrative modifications of previous military methods, but actually introduced new operations, procedures, and principles from the private business world. Procurement methods, supply procedures, and storage and distribution were all streamlined after research of their usage. Although profits were not the measure of success in the QMC, it was still necessary to provide maximum service to the troops at a minimum cost. Modern methods were employed whenever possible, and "IBM machines" and teletypes helped speed supply operations at headquarters and the depots. Fork-lift trucks and other mechanical equipment were necessary to handle the tremendous tonnage of supplies required for this global war.

Depot Operations in World War II

During World War II, the QMC not only provided food, clothing, fuel, and other supplies to the Army (which was about 8,000,000 men during its peak strength), it also furnished various supplies to the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and other agencies. This involved the movement of millions of tons of supplies into and out of the Quartermaster depots. During the emergency period and the months

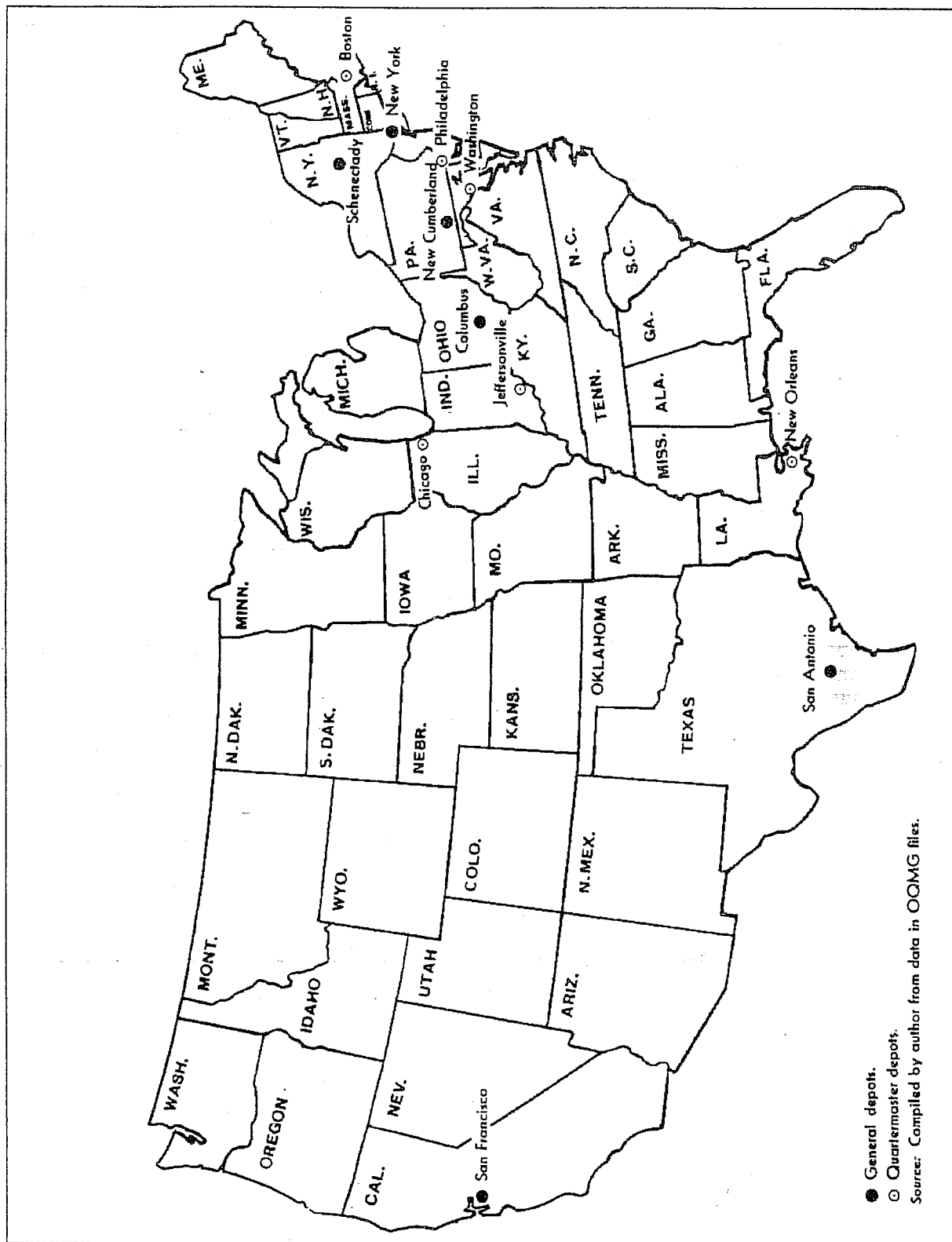


Figure 1. Quartermaster Corps Depot System: 1939

From: Risch, 1989

following Pearl Harbor, the primary objectives of the QMC was the rapid expansion of its depot system in addition to the prompt delivery of supplies to troops. By the end of 1942, these goals had largely been achieved and more attention was directed to improving inventory control for more balanced and equitable distribution.¹²

Prior to the establishment of the Depot Division within the QMC in May 1941, the Quartermaster depots and Quartermaster sections of general depots tended to operate as separate autonomies rather than as parts of an overall depot system. Each depot used various methods or systems for getting the job done, paying little attention to the fact that other organizations might be doing similar work in a more effective manner. Once established, the Depot Division's mission was to standardize and coordinate activities in order to make each depot more efficient.¹³ Other changes were first wrought at the higher levels, such as the previously noted transformation of the QMC from a commodity-based one with a field organization to that of a more functional organization. Several civilian experts working with the OQMG, coming from commercial organizations employing the functional principle, advocated an immediate and fundamental change in the way the Quartermaster was organized. In March 1942, with little time for discussion, the OQMG abandoned its traditional commodity-type organization and reorganized on a functional basis.¹⁴ Everything from the chain of command to the way in which supplies were procured by the depots was affected.

Storage: One of the key mistakes made during World War I was the failure to provide sufficient storage facilities. This led to the shipment of goods directly to piers and other port facilities, which were then clogged with goods. Rail lines for miles behind the terminals held loaded cars waiting for movement to shipside. The OQMG thus realized the importance of providing storage space as the country geared up to meet the new conflict during World War II. The problem of too little storage space was not merely due to lack of floorage. Prior to World War II, storage problems were subordinated to those of distribution, and the accountability of property was more important than controlling supplies for equitable distribution and minimum storage. As the war progressed, it became apparent that modern methods of warehousing had to be adapted to the Army system of supply. Up to this point, warehousing had simply been considered a matter of space control -- allocating available storage facilities among the supply services. Using improved equipment for handling supplies or adopting sounder methods of receiving, stacking, packing, and shipping had not been considered.¹⁵

A study of these problems led to the establishment of a Depot Division in May 1941. A later reorganization led to the formation of the Storage and Distribution Service (later Division), which was responsible for managing and operating the Quartermaster depots. The delivery of goods from depots to embarkation ports, posts, and camps was supervised from headquarters. Depot operations were revised and simplified, and training for both civilian and military personnel was provided in warehousing duties. Control of the supplies by headquarters ceased when they were delivered to the depots.¹⁶ This division of authority allowed for the standardization of warehousing and distribution methods from the depots.

During World War II, the Quartermaster depots were the keystone of the Quartermaster system of supply. At this time, the depot storage system was based on broad principles of decentralization. Depending upon their assignments, the depots were classified as *regional distributing*, *filler*, *key*, or *reserve* depots. Most Quartermaster depots included the functions of three or even all four of these classifications. The continental U.S. was divided into fifteen areas, with each area being served by a *regional distributing* depot. The size of the area served by the depot depended upon the storage capacity of the depot, the density of the military population, and the time required to make deliveries. This system of regional depots was the backbone of the decentralization system. A supply officer of a post, camp or station in the interior zone ordered from only one depot for all of the Quartermaster items, which greatly simplified the task of requisition officers. The regional depots thus furnished supplies directly to all camps, posts, and stations within its area. The only major types of supplies not handled by the depots were perishable subsistence items, issued through Quartermaster market centers, and fuels and lubricants, sent directly to the military stations from the producers.

Key depots handled supplies that were scarce, in limited demand, or that required special handling. Since storage area for these might be comparatively small, the larger regional depots could not

economically handle high numbers of these types of items, which might include war dog equipment or items which served a restricted area, such as desert equipment. Also, items which demanded special handling or storage were kept at key depots, such as clothing chemically impregnated as a protection against poison gas.¹⁷ A key depot's area of distribution might include two or more regional areas, or even the entire zone of the interior.

Filler depots were established generally within 100 miles of the seaboard in order to serve specific ports of embarkation, which in turn were assigned to specific theaters of operation. Goods were forwarded only upon the call of the port commander in the quantity requested, at the time requested, and in an orderly and controlled flow. This system was devised in order to avoid the disasters that had occurred with goods and troops at the ports during World War I. *Reserve* depots kept reserves of supplies which replenished stocks of regional distributing and filler depots. They also set aside supplies in anticipation of shortages or in preparation for specific operations.¹⁸ The distributing depots averaged about 3,500 items, but ranged as high as 6,000 or more for those installations with diverse missions. The missions of the depots were not permanently fixed throughout the war, either. They would change as troop concentrations shifted in the zone of the interior or in the various theaters of operations. The new system for the Quartermaster Corps was able to respond more quickly to these changes, and the functions of the depots were thus altered as the direction of the global conflict changed.¹⁹

As important as an efficient method of distribution to improving the services of the Quartermaster Corps was adequacy of storage facilities. In order to solve this problem, the QMC expanded its depot system during World War II, utilized commercial storage facilities, and developed methods to assure complete utilization of existing storage space. In 1940, there were twelve depots which handled Quartermaster supplies, and all but two of these were east of the Mississippi (see Figure 1). At this time, the amount of permanent warehouse space controlled by the QMC was 7,700,000 square feet. This was far below the estimated seventeen and a half square feet of floorage needed for each of the millions of troops that would be engaged in the war. Since World War I, the needs of the peacetime army had been easily met with this amount of space. Between 1933 and 1940, the Quartermaster Corps had added the responsibility of supplying the Civilian Conservation Corps, which had the fortunate effect of increasing the activities of the QM depots during this period, unconsciously preparing the Corps for the much greater expansion which would soon occur.²⁰

As noted earlier, the geographical distribution of the depots in 1940 was not well suited for many aspects of the upcoming global conflict. They were concentrated in the East due to the tendency to locate major distributing agencies in the larger commercial centers, as well as close to the Atlantic ports which were used in World War I. However, the Pacific conflict required more depots in the West if major supply problems were to be avoided. Additionally, training camps would be concentrated in the area east of the Mississippi and south of the Potomac and Ohio Rivers due to the mild climate and areas of open terrain.²¹ Unfortunately, this was another area of the country with few depots in 1940. These problems were rectified in the expansion of the depot system in the United States during World War II.

The expansion of the depot system occurred in three phases which paralleled the phases of the United States' involvement with the war. The first phase began in 1939 with the outbreak of the war in Europe and ended with the fall of France in the summer of 1940. During this time, it was anticipated that the depot system would need to be expanded, and the OQMG called for existing depots to submit estimates for the improvements necessary to meet the increased needs. By the end of this period, little more was accomplished than the preparation of plans.²²

The second phase of the depot expansion lasted until the attack on Pearl Harbor. The first units of the National Guard were called into service, and the Army expanded to about one and a half million men. It was apparent that new and larger depots were needed to handle the vast quantities of supplies; thus a program of expansion included not only enlarging old Quartermaster depots, but constructing new ones as well. By the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor, about 11,500,000 square feet of depot space was ready for Quartermaster use, due to the expansion of older installations and the construction of two new general depots and two new Quartermaster depots. Construction was also well advanced on three other general depots and five additional Quartermaster depots, and about to begin in other cases. The QMC

preferred one-story buildings that had railroad freight sidings with loading platforms level with the car floor on one side of the warehouse, and docks for truck loading on the other. With lofty ceilings and unlimited floor-load capacity, the space could be more fully utilized with high tiering of supplies. Mechanical equipment could be more efficiently used as well. This type of construction required large tracts of land, however, and consequently their construction was often confined to smaller urban communities or areas with more open country.²³

In determining the location of the new depots, there were many complex factors which had to be studied: troop distribution, the role of the distributing depots in the future system of distribution; the existence of favorable freight rates; adequate labor supply; and the elimination of backhauls and crosshauls.²⁴ Speedy completion of the new depots was critical once the basics of site selection, size, and type of construction had been settled. Cost-plus-fixed fee contracts were used to expedite construction. This allowed work to begin before the specific allotments of money and before final plans were drawn.

During the third phase of Quartermaster Corps depot expansion, which started after the attack on Pearl Harbor, one of the greatest problems was the shortage of materials and labor. Temporary structures began to be substituted for more permanent buildings. By the beginning of 1943, the expansion program of the Quartermaster depots was substantially completed. Eleven Quartermaster depots and eleven Quartermaster sections of Army Service Forces (ASF) depots contained covered storage of more than 25,000,000 square feet. Existing installations had been enlarged, and millions more square feet of storage had been leased. Six new Quartermaster depots, six new ASF depots with Quartermaster sections, and seven new sub-depots had been built. Most of the new buildings were constructed below the Mason-Dixon line and west of the Mississippi (see Figure 2).

By May 1943, it was decided not to authorize any further building unless it would seriously threaten the efficiency of depot operations. As a result of this decision, depot construction did not keep up with the large increase in troop strength. Originally it has been estimated that 66,000,000 square feet of covered storage space was necessary to supply an army of 3,200,000 men. However, at peak strength during World War II there were more than 8,000,000 men in the Army, and only 75,000,00 square feet of storage -- one hundred and fifty percent over the original estimate of troops, but with only thirteen percent more storage space. Surprisingly, the Quartermaster managed to be successful in World War II even with vastly less than planned for storage space. This was due to the increased use of materials-handling equipment (such as forklifts), improved depot layout and space utilization, a greater use of open storage (sheds with roofs by no side walls, for example), and a greater use of leased and commercial storage.²⁵ Leasing or purchasing existing commercial warehouses was especially useful in communities where real estate and building costs were exorbitant, where no great postwar need would exist, or where space was immediately required. Leasing had the advantage of quickly acquiring space without a heavy capital outlay.^{26 27}

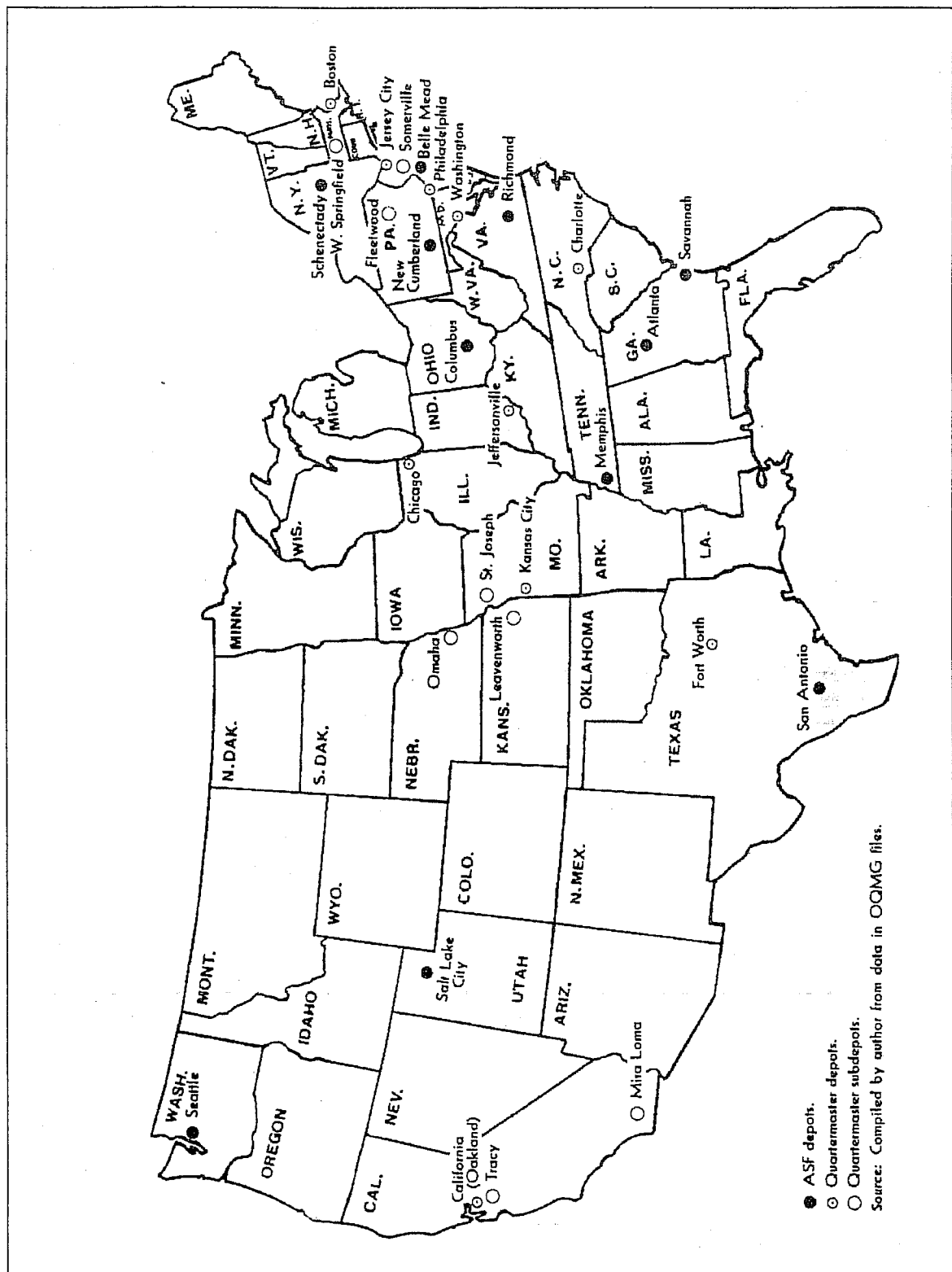


Figure 2: Quartermaster Corps Depot System: 1 December 1944

From: Risch, 1989

KANSAS CITY QUARTERMASTER DEPOT: 1940 - 1953

Throughout its history, the Quartermaster Corps has had to react quickly in order to gear up for military action in times of need or emergency. The history of the Kansas City Quartermaster Depot vividly reflects the speed in which this department could build up from small-scale peacetime operations to full-scale, world war operations. With the dramatic enlargement of the Army after the fall of France to 1,400,000 men in September 1940, the Corps expanded its personnel and organization both in Washington and the field, with depots quickly established in the south and western half of the United States. The Kansas City Quartermaster Depot was one of these newly established depots built during World War II to serve the western portion of the country.

Lt. Col. C.J. Blake, Q.M.C., Quartermaster of the Purchasing Agency at the St. Louis Arsenal and Quartermaster of the St. Louis Medical Depot, was contacted 23 November 1940 by General Munnikhuysen from the Office of the Quartermaster General at Washington. He immediately arranged for an appointment in Kansas City with an officer of the National Bellas Hess company. After his Kansas City meeting, he left immediately for Washington, D.C. for conference, and upon his return to St. Louis, he announced that the Government had purchased the National Bellas Hess building in Kansas City as a Quartermaster Depot.²⁸ By 1 December 1940, Col. Blake met with the employees of the St. Louis Quartermaster office and outlined the arrangements for closing the Quartermaster activities in St. Louis (except for those pertaining to the duties of the St. Louis Medical Depot). The next day, he went to Kansas City to organize the new depot. The following Tuesday, many of the St. Louis employees left for Kansas City, and reported for work on 4 December 1940. This date is considered the formal or official opening date of the Kansas City Quartermaster Depot.²⁹ All of the St. Louis employees that transferred were working in Kansas City by 1 January 1941.

The National Bellas Hess building and property were purchased by the Government for \$1,400,000.³⁰ The large warehouse building (no longer part of the Hardesty Federal Complex) was built in 1919-20 for the National Cloak & Suit Company. At the time, the National Cloak & Suit Company was the largest mail order wearing apparel house in the eastern United States. Kansas City was chosen for the site of their Western distribution, and it was said to have been the largest initial investment ever made by any company coming to Kansas City to that date. Designed by architect N. Max Dunning of Chicago, the building was estimated to have cost approximately two million dollars. It provided more than fourteen acres of floor space, and its luncheon room would house more than 1200 persons at one time. Sufficient ground was purchased for playgrounds and tennis courts could be added later, as well as a terrace and shrubbery on the front.³¹ In 1926-27, the building became a warehouse for the National Bellas Hess Company. Bellas Hess carried a variety of items, from furniture to dress goods. In 1928, Bellas Hess added retail operations in Kansas City at the building, covering nearly the entire first floor.³² Fortunes of the company declined during the Depression, and by 1932, former employees applied for a receiver for Bellas Hess' Missouri property.³³ Thus by the time the Department of the Army purchased the property in 1940, the National Holding Company as well as the National Bellas Hess Company was involved with the transfer.

The Quartermaster Corps probably selected the site for a number of reasons, many of them the same as when the National Cloak & Suit Company selected it in the 1910s -- for Kansas City's prominence as a major rail hub, a sizable population with reliable work force, and this site's proximity to rail lines. Especially attractive for the Army's purposes were the large number of meat-packing plants in Kansas City, and nearby in St. Joseph and Omaha. Additionally, by the time the Army was scouting for Quartermaster sites, the Hardesty property already contained a large warehouse. To make the site even more enticing, its owners were having financial difficulties and were probably anxious to sell. Since the National Cloak & Suit Company originally had plans for expansion, there was additional land associated with the site which would allow the Quartermaster to expand as well. In all, the site seemed well-suited for its new purpose. Included with the sale were:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| • Main building #1 | 16,174, 798 cu. ft. | built 1919 |
| • Annex building #2 | 2,277,955 cu. ft. | built 1919 |
| • Power plant building #3 | 200,544 cu. ft. | built 1919 |

- Coal unloading shed #3A 68,527 cu. ft. built 1924
- Garage 66,000 cu. ft. built 1924
- Power house machinery
- Furniture and equipment³⁴

Although the Bellas Hess building and site was purchased so that it could be immediately placed into use as a Quartermaster Depot, the existing occupants were not able to vacate immediately. In addition to the National Bellas Hess Company, space had been rented to the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company and Baker-Lockwood Manufacturing Company. Rental rates had to be established for these companies, and a share of operating expenses were charged until they were able to vacate the space.³⁵

The mission of the Kansas City Quartermaster Depot (KCQD) when it was initially setup was stated in a letter from the Quartermaster General dated 1 December 1940 (and amended by 1st Indorsement from The Quartermaster General dated 17 December 1940):

The mission of the Kansas City Quartermaster Depot is to purchase, store and issue Quartermaster supplies for posts, camps and stations in the States of Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Wyoming, South Dakota and Utah (amended to add states of Missouri and Arkansas.)

1st phase: Take over all Quartermaster procurement functions that have been carried on by the Quartermaster at St. Louis; that is, the purchase of subsistence and forage for the area heretofore assigned St. Louis, and the purchase, storage and issue of subsistence for the CCC camps heretofore assigned to St. Louis.

2nd phase: As stocks become available, the Depot will be stocked with stocks of clothing, equipage and general supplies. At the time when sufficient stocks are on hand The Quartermaster General will authorize distribution.

3rd phase: Present Depots will continue to serve the Kansas City Depot area of distribution with budget items for the remainder of the fiscal year. Stocks of budget items will be accumulated at the Kansas City Depot, in order that they may take over the supply of budget items in their area of distribution for the first quarter of the next fiscal year.

The Procurement Planning office now in St. Louis will be moved to Kansas City and will operate with respect to the Kansas City Depot the same as the Chicago Depot; namely, the Commanding Officer of the Depot will be the procurement planning officer and other procurement planning personnel will be assigned to the Depot designated for procurement planning work.³⁶

Several divisions began functioning immediately after the opening of the Depot in late 1940. The Procurement Planning Division began talking to manufacturers and industrialists in the area who called offering their facilities and seeking information regarding the procurement program. Several trips were also made to cities throughout the trade area to visit manufacturing plants. A survey was made of needed repairs to the building, and estimates were prepared for building new docks, switch tracks, flood lighting, steel fencing around the property, and erecting a new Utilities building.³⁷ The Depot's own forces were used to complete the initial railway track work.

By April of 1941, Bellas Hess began vacating the main building and plans were underway for the construction of a new clothing renovation plant. Goodyear Tire vacated by June, and Baker-Lockwood Company by August of that year. Plans for assembling "C" rations required trips to the Chicago Depot for observation of manufacturing methods. To gear up for these new activities, military personnel were transferred or appointed to the KCQD and civilian personnel were hired. By October 1941, the Depot has 583 employees.³⁸ By March 18, 1942, there were 868 employees; with the Post Utilities and Chemical Warfare divisions, the total was 1024.³⁹ By November 7, 1942, the total number of employees at the KCQD had grown to 2532.⁴⁰

As the Quartermaster Corps' role increased and shifted during World War II, so did the role of the Kansas City Quartermaster Depot. The organizational manual of 31 August 1945 reveals the breadth of responsibility of the KCQD at its height of operations; many of the operations listed therein had been in existence from the beginning in 1941; others were added later as military needs dictated. The manual lists the regional area of distribution in 1945 as Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas, Colorado, and Wyoming. It also lists six key missions: supply, maintenance, manufacturing, procurement, inspection, and research. Under each of those missions, more specific objectives for the Kansas City Depot were described, as well as the official classification assignments of the depot for each of these areas (such as *regional distributing*, *filler*, *key*, or *reserve depot* as defined earlier). The mission of the Kansas City Quartermaster Depot in 1945 was:

Supply

1. Subsistence

- a) *As a distribution depot.* To receive and store nonperishable subsistence supplies for issue to installations within the distribution area of this depot.
- b) *As an assembly depot.*
 - i) To assemble the components and issue completed "C" rations as directed by The Quartermaster General.
 - ii) To assemble the components and issue "10-in-1" rations and Partial Dinner Units, of the "10-in-1" rations, as directed by The Quartermaster General.

2. Clothing and Equipage

- a) *As a distribution depot.* To receive and store clothing and equipage supplies for issue to installations within the distribution area of this depot.
- b) *As a key depot.*
 - i) To receive and store impermeable clothing for issue to installations within all key depot areas, except Area V, and for issue and shipment through the New Orleans Port of Embarkation and the New Orleans Outport of the San Francisco Port of Embarkation.
 - ii) To receive and store protective clothing for issue to installations within all key depot areas, except Area V, and for issue and shipment through the New Orleans Port of Embarkation and the New Orleans Outport of the San Francisco Port of Embarkation.
- c) *As a reserve depot.*
 - i) To receive and store protective clothing.

3. General Supplies

- a) *As a distribution depot.* To receive and store general supplies for issue to installations within the distribution area of this depot.

4. Packing and Crating Supplies

- a) *As a distribution depot.*
 - i) To receive and store packing and crating supplies for issue to installations within the distribution area of this depot.
 - ii) To receive and store special items for use in the packing and processing of equipment of alerted units for issue to the Seventh Service Command.

5. Fuels and Lubricants

- a) *As a distribution depot.* To receive and store petroleum handling equipment for issue to installations within the distribution area of this depot.
- b) *As a reserve depot.* To receive and store operational reserve stock of petroleum products.

6. Miscellaneous Supplies (Service Installations)

- a) *As a distribution depot.*
 - i) To receive and store laundry and dry-cleaning supplies; horse, mule and dog food; inks; and lithographic chemicals and other operating supplies for War Department field printing plants (QM operated) for issue to installations within the distribution area of this depot.

- ii) To receive and store Educational Manuals for issue and shipment through West Coast ports of embarkation.

7. **Lend-Lease Supplies**

- a) *As a reserve depot.* To receive and store quartermaster lend-lease supplies as directed by The Quartermaster General.

Maintenance

1. **Repairs**

- a) To perform fifth-echelon maintenance on overshoes, shoe pacs, clothing, textiles, tentage, metal and wood items, mess kitchen equipment (except silverplated tableware) as directed by The Quartermaster General.
- b) To perform fifth-echelon maintenance on typewriters within the Seventh Service Command.
- c) To contract for rebuilding of various types of shoes and boots as directed by The Quartermaster General.

2. **Reclamation**

- a) To contract for reclamation of petroleum containers returned from the states of Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming and Colorado.

Manufacturing

1. **Manufacturing**

- a) To impregnate clothing.

Procurement

1. **Procurement**

- a) To procure recreational and athletic equipment, and such other classes of supplies as may be directed by The Quartermaster General.
- b) To procure forage and dog food.
- c) To procure items of nonperishable subsistence for issue to the distribution area of this depot.
- d) To procure graphic arts operating supplies, chemicals, replacement parts, and contractual services for repairing machines for the War Department field printing plants.

Inspection

1. **Inspection**

- a) To supervise inspection of supplies at plants and at depots or points of delivery within the states of Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and Wyoming.

Research

1. **Research**

- a) To administrate the Control Laboratory, subject to the technical direction of the Office of The Quartermaster General.

Miscellaneous

- 1. To operate the Army Effects Bureau for the receipt, storage and disposition of effects of Army overseas personnel, both deceased and "missing", and the disposition of lost or abandoned property of Army personnel.
- 2. To administrate the Army Service Forces Commercial Warehouse Plan to all facilities located within the distribution area of this depot.

3. To receive and store nonperishable subsistence supplies for the accountability of procuring depots.
4. To receive, assemble, and store certain items of athletic and recreational equipment for issue to the entire Army as directed by Special Services Division.⁴¹

The Kansas City Quartermaster Depot was thus classified as a *regional distribution depot*, a *reserve depot*, and a *key depot*. It purchased, inspected, and stored such standard Army supplies as clothing and foodstuffs, and subsequently distributed them to Army facilities around the country, and overseas as well. Obviously necessary to perform these functions was a military structure with associated divisions ranging from administrative, personnel, etc. The KCQD had the additional assignment of an *assembly depot*, as it prepared the "C" rations for the U.S. Army. It also performed repair on clothing, mess items, and typewriters; impregnated army clothing to ward off the effects of gas attacks; administered the Army Effects Bureau; and procured and distributed athletic and recreational equipment for the entire Army.

The repair shop at Kansas City was used for training personnel across the country in standards for repairs. A small number of officers were drawn from repair sub-depots and depots in June 1944 and became the nucleus for teaching other classification personnel. These officers were then assigned in groups of three to teach at three central repair shops operated by the Kansas City, Jersey City, and California Quartermaster Depots. Here, instruction was offered for other classification officers from across the country.

The Personnel Effects Bureau was another mission assigned solely to the KCQD (housed in building #1, no longer part of the Hardesty Federal Complex). The care of deceased military personnel, the maintenance and supervision national cemeteries were among the special services that were entrusted to the Quartermaster General. Its functions and administration had undergone drastic changes over the years, and were obviously altered again during the drastically increased demands placed upon these services during World War II. Included among the services were the disposition of the personal effects of missing or deceased military personnel. On 17 February 1942, the Chief of Staff directed that an Effects Bureau be activated in Kansas City "as part of the Kansas City Quartermaster Depot."⁴² It received the property of the military and civilian personnel serving beyond continental boundaries of the United States who were deceased, prisoners of war, or missing, and then made disposition to persons entitled to receive it.⁴³ Later added to the mission was the American Graves Registration Division, which was responsible for the burial or reburial of uniformed wartime casualties.

In the span of a few short years, it is clear that the mission of the Kansas City Quartermaster Depot had greatly expanded from that of merely replacing the St. Louis Depot. Soon after operations began in late 1940, it was clear that additional buildings were needed. Directive P-52 was received by the District Engineer on 16 February 1942 authorizing the expansion of the Depot storage facilities. An additional directive, P-118, was received on 24 March 1942 for the same reason, this time including an estimate for the cost of the expansion at \$2,585,000.00.⁴⁴ Most of the new buildings would provide additional storage space -- the Bellas Hess building did not have enough cubic feet to serve the needs of the rapidly expanding military force. The new warehouse facilities were constructed with more modern designs, and were far more accommodating to needs of the Quartermaster. As previously noted, the QMC preferred one-story buildings that had railroad freight sidings with loading platforms level with the car floor on one side of the warehouse, and docks for truck loading on the other. Although most of the warehouse buildings in Kansas City were two-story with a basement, they were constructed with lofty ceilings and had unlimited floor-load capacity on the first floor. This space could then be more fully utilized with high tiering of supplies, and mechanical equipment could be more efficiently used as well. Nearly all had loading docks, and easy access to both rail spurs and roadways (for truck deliveries). At least one building at the KCQD complex was constructed with a specific purpose other than warehousing in mind -- one that was unique in the Quartermaster system. A summary of individual building histories follows.

Building #3A

Building #3A was constructed in 1919 in association with the main warehouse of the National Cloak & Suit Company. It served as the boiler house, providing steam heat for the warehouse located to the north. An addition was built on the south side of this building in 1942, with a transfer to using service occurring on 30 November 1942.

Building #6

The Clothing Renovating Plant was the first new building planned for the KCQD property. The plans for the plant were originally produced for use at Edgewood Arsenal; it was therefore necessary to adapt them to the Hardesty project. Black and Veatch, Consulting Engineers of Kansas City, Missouri, prepared these adaptations.⁴⁵ It was constructed by Universal Construction Company, low bidder, at a bid of \$347,900; actual costs were \$17,985.00 less.⁴⁶ Delays were encountered with the delivery of critical material, including structural steel, corrugated asbestos siding, valves and unit heaters. Nonetheless, construction began on May 28, 1941, and was completed on 6 November 1941, 69 days ahead of scheduled completion date⁴⁷. This contract included the Clothing Renovation Building (#6), a pump house, transformer substation building, and interior utilities. The furnishing and installation of the machinery was awarded to American Laundry Machinery Company. Work began on the construction of a spur track to serve building #6 in October 1941. This contract was let to Longwill and Scott of St. Louis, Missouri for \$9,674.00.⁴⁸

The purpose of the building was to serve as a Clothing Renovating Plant designed to impregnate army clothes with "Impregnate 'I'" in order to proof them against certain forms of gas attack, such as "mustard gas."⁴⁹ It was operated by the Chemical Warfare Service division, and its employees were considered separate from the others at the KCQD. They were, in fact, even required to eat in separate shifts at the KCQD restaurant. The chemicals which were used to form "Impregnate I" were kept in tanks outside the building. The chemicals were mixed, then pumped through pipelines into the second floor of the building. The clothes were washed in the chemical mixture in machines on the second floor. After washing, they were drained upstairs, with an attempt to recover the chemicals during drainage. The clothes were then sent below to dry in clothes dryers. In the same building, they were spread on tables, folded, and packed for shipping.⁵⁰

Soon after the Clothing Renovating Plant began operations, it was noticed that a rash of illnesses were occurring among employees. The operating officer notified his superiors, and soon thereafter a medical department was initiated. Better safety procedures were implemented and experimentation with the chemicals led to a lower concentration.

The majority of employees at the Clothing Renovating Plant were civilian. Operations were ran twenty-four hours a day in three shifts. The plant ceased its operations on 10 August 1945, and all CWS employees were relieved of duty on 12 September. All employees were allowed to transfer to the Personnel Effects division, located in Building #1.⁵¹

Building #7

Information on Building #7 is limited to that available from original plans, where it was referred to as "Building B: Utilities Building." The plans are dated from August 1941, with the likelihood that construction began shortly after this. Black & Veatch are listed as the "consulting engineers." The Utilities Division was responsible for maintenance and repair of the Quartermaster buildings, site, and equipment, and it is possible that this building was used in for that purpose. In recent years, it served as storage for PMDS Civil Defense Supply.

Building #13

Building #13 was built in 1941 in conjunction with #6, the Clothing Renovating Plant. It has always served as an electrical sub-station building, distributing power for the entire complex. Engineers and contractor was the J.H. MacKay Electrical Company, Kansas City, Missouri.

Building #9

This "L"-shaped building was originally referred to as Buildings #8 and #9, in reference to the two main sections, but it has always been one building. Planning for the building began on 7 March 1942, and construction commenced on 18 May 1942. Initially, the excavation for the footings was delayed due to the area being traversed by four fingers of a creek, approximately 28 to 30 feet deep, which had been used as a dump. The "objectionable material" had to be removed and backfilled.⁵² Construction was also impeded by the fact that the site was congested due to the magnitude of new construction and the functioning at maximum capacity of the existing buildings as a Quartermaster Depot. The limited space did not permit operation of a concrete plant on site, and ready-mixed concrete had to be sent from five miles distant.⁵³ The Architect-Engineer was [Earl] Horner & Wyatt of Kansas City, Missouri. In writing of the services provided by the group, the completion report for the building noted that "No difficulty was experienced in securing a sufficient number of personnel. The quantity was available, but the quality was lacking."⁵⁴ The general contractor was J.E. Dunn Construction Company, and the completion report highly praised their efforts. During the summer months, the company's crews worked on a 24 hour basis, 7 days a week. In addition to originally being the low bidder, the company made a voluntary reduction of approximately \$170,000.00 by setting a precedent for a "non profit job."⁵⁵ Completion for the building was planned for 2 December 1942, but beneficial occupancy occurred on 1 October 1942, and Buildings #8 and 9 were officially transferred to using service on 30 November 1942, the same date as the utility systems.

Constructed originally as a "special warehouse," it is likely that Building #9 stored a variety of items during its usage by the Quartermaster. Various plans show a roller conveyor and baling operation, and indicate locations for baled clothing and subsistence cars. Those shown below, from a different date, indicate a ration line in the basement, and an assembly area, baling room, and central pack room.

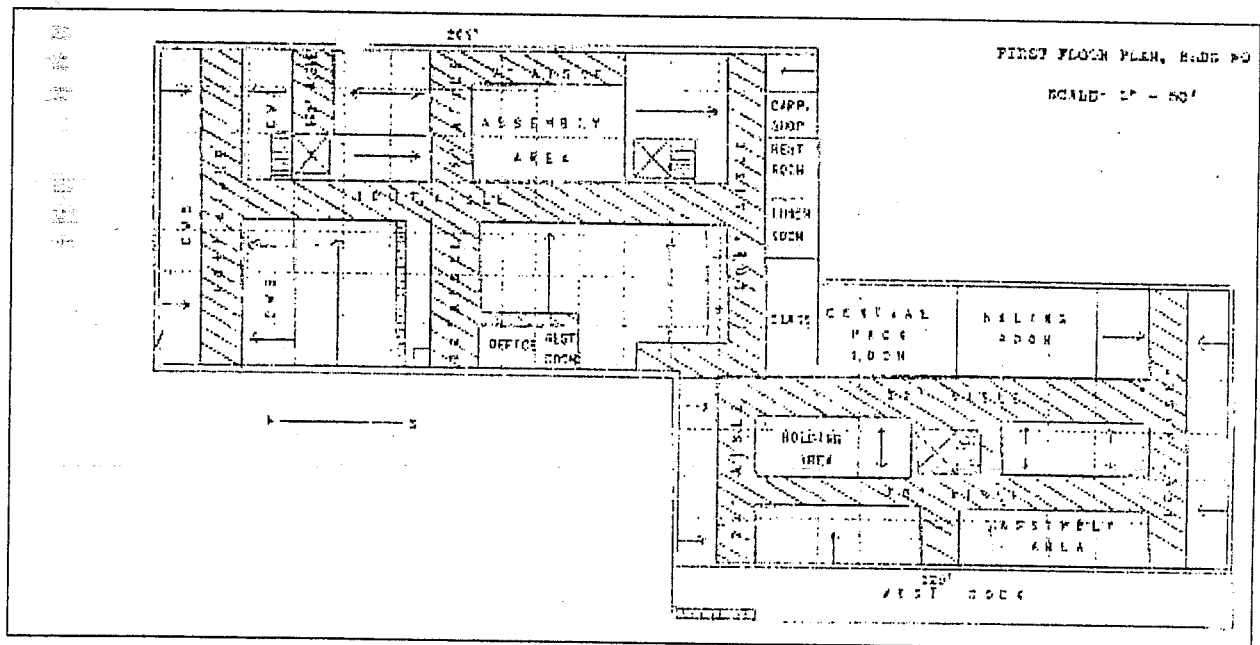


Figure 3. Building #9
 From: Depot Operating Procedure No. 93,
 "Uniform Floor Plans for Warehouse Buildings,"
 23 June 1944.

Building #10

Planning for Building #10 began on 7 March 1942, and construction commenced on 18 May 1942. Initially, the excavation for the footings was delayed due to the area being traversed by four fingers of a creek, approximately 28 to 30 feet deep, which had been used as a dump. The "objectionable material" had to be removed and backfilled.⁵⁶ Construction was also impeded by the fact that the site was congested due to the magnitude of new construction and the functioning at maximum capacity of the existing buildings as a Quartermaster Depot. The limited space did not permit operation of a concrete plant on site, and ready-mixed concrete had to be sent from five miles distant.⁵⁷ The Architect-Engineer was [Earl] Horner & Wyatt of Kansas City, Missouri. In writing of the services provided by the group, the completion report for the building noted that "No difficulty was experienced in securing a sufficient number of personnel. The quantity was available, but the quality was lacking."⁵⁸ The general contractor was J.E. Dunn Construction Company, and the completion report highly praised their efforts. During the summer months, the company's crews worked on a 24 hour basis, 7 days a week. In addition to originally being the low bidder, the company made a voluntary reduction of approximately \$170,000.00 by setting a precedent for a "non profit job."⁵⁹ Completion for the building was planned for 2 December 1942, but beneficial occupancy occurred on 17 October 1942, and Building #10 was officially transferred to using service on 30 November 1942, the same date as the utility systems.

Constructed originally as a "special warehouse," it is likely that Building #10 stored a variety of items during its usage by the Quartermaster. Various plans show some of the recreation items that the KCQD supplied for the entire Army, such as baseball bats and fishing kits, being stored in #10. Containers for shipping were critical to the operations of the Depot, and it appears that "knock-down" for boxes occurred in building #10 (with recycling of shipping materials a key operation). Those shown below, from a different date, indicate an assembly area in the basement with conveyors; assembly, broken package, storage, and export pack areas on the 1st floor; and additional storage on the 2nd floor. It has been used by the Army for training and as an Armory since 1950.

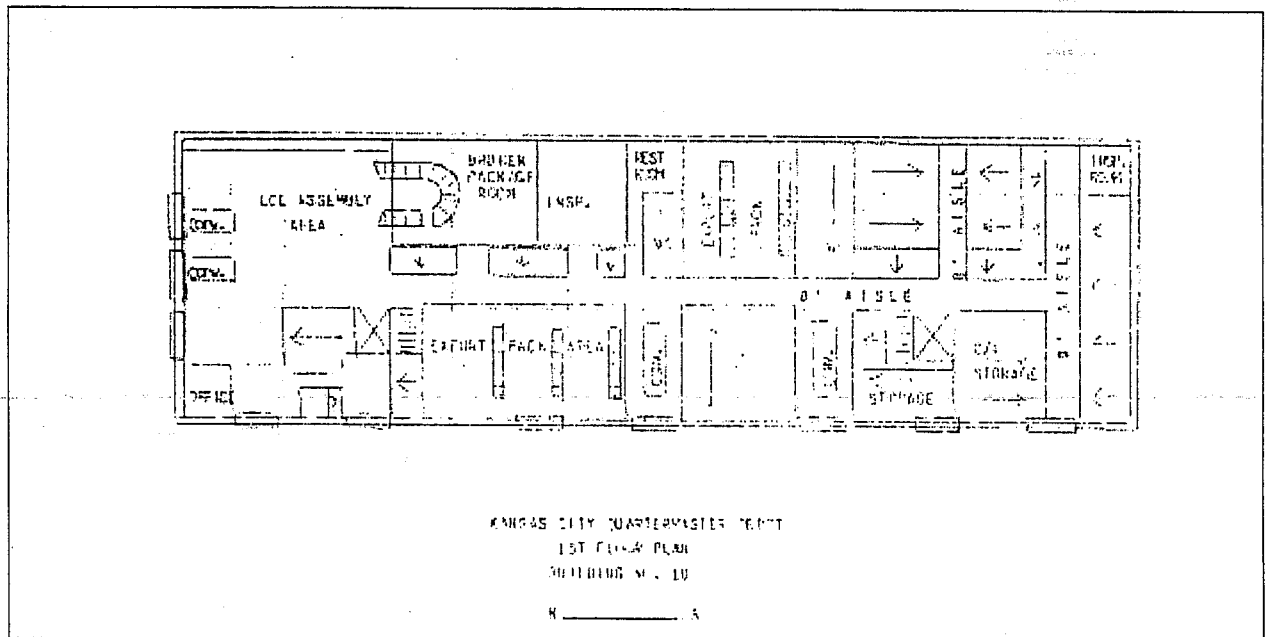


Figure 4. Building #10

From: Depot Operating Procedure No. 93,
"Uniform Floor Plans for Warehouse Buildings,"
23 June 1944.

Building #11

Planning for Building #11 began on 7 March 1942, and construction commenced on 18 May 1942. Initially, the excavation for the footings was delayed due to the area being traversed by four fingers of a creek, approximately 28 to 30 feet deep, which had been used as a dump. The "objectionable material" had to be removed and backfilled.⁶⁰ Construction was also impeded by the fact that the site was congested due to the magnitude of new construction and the functioning at maximum capacity of the existing buildings as a Quartermaster Depot. The limited space did not permit operation of a concrete plant on site, and ready-mixed concrete had to be sent from five miles distant.⁶¹ The Architect-Engineer was [Earl] Horner & Wyatt of Kansas City, Missouri. In writing of the services provided by the group, the completion report for the building noted that "No difficulty was experienced in securing a sufficient number of personnel. The quantity was available, but the quality was lacking."⁶² The general contractor was J.E. Dunn Construction Company, and the completion report highly praised their efforts. During the summer months, the company's crews worked on a 24 hour basis, 7 days a week. In addition to originally being the low bidder, the company made a voluntary reduction of approximately \$170,000.00 by setting a precedent for a "non profit job."⁶³ Completion for the building was planned for 2 December 1942, but beneficial occupancy occurred on 11 August 1942, and Building #11 was officially transferred to using service on 17 October 1942.

Constructed originally as a "special warehouse," it is likely that Building #11 stored a variety of items during its usage by the Quartermaster. Various plans show freight received from stations and trucks were unloaded here. Those shown below, from a different date, indicate numerous assemble areas in the basement and 2nd floor, with assemble on the 2nd floor as well, in addition to several holding and packing areas. By the mid-1950s, the first floor was used for Army Defense Mapping until their relocation to St. Louis in 1990. Army "Home Town News" was also produced here until the end of the Vietnam War.

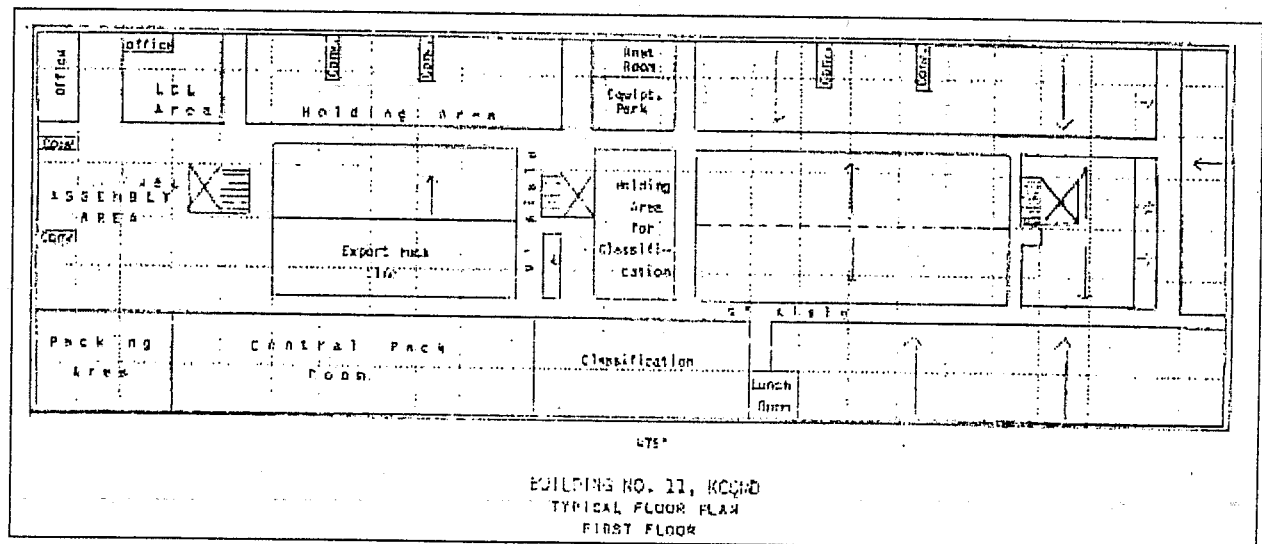


Figure 5. Building #11
From: Depot Operating Procedure No. 93,
 "Uniform Floor Plans for Warehouse Buildings,"
 23 June 1944.

Open storage

In spite of the vast increase in warehouse space at the Kansas City Quartermaster Depot since its purchase in 1940, as throughout the entire Quartermaster system, it was found to be not enough. Therefore, open storage was used for suitable items. There were some problems experienced with finding suitable methods from keeping the materials from contact with the ground, and the first wooden pallets were cheaply made. A switch to metal pallets only lasted until the first hard rains, when they all sank into the ground. Various plans indicate that 5 gallon water cans, G1 cans, and insecticide were among the items kept in open storage. A layout from 1944 is shown below.

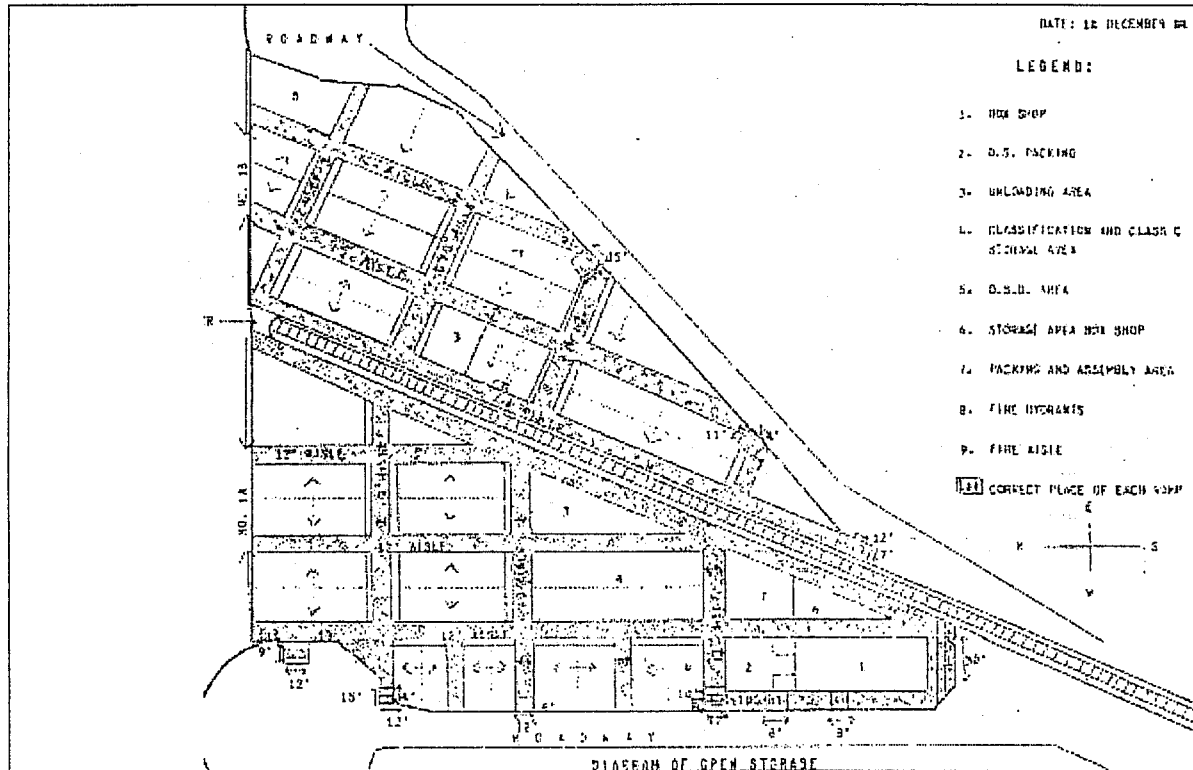


Figure 6. Open Storage

From: Depot Operating Procedure No. 93,
"Uniform Floor Plans for Warehouse Buildings,"
23 June 1944.

Demolished Buildings

The following buildings were noted on a 7 July 1945 "Plot Plan of Kansas City Quartermaster Depot" but are no longer extant: Buildings 4, 5, 8, 12, 14, 15 (may be presently attached to 3A), 16, 17, and 18. The majority of these buildings were small in relative comparison to the large warehouse buildings, and are shown below.

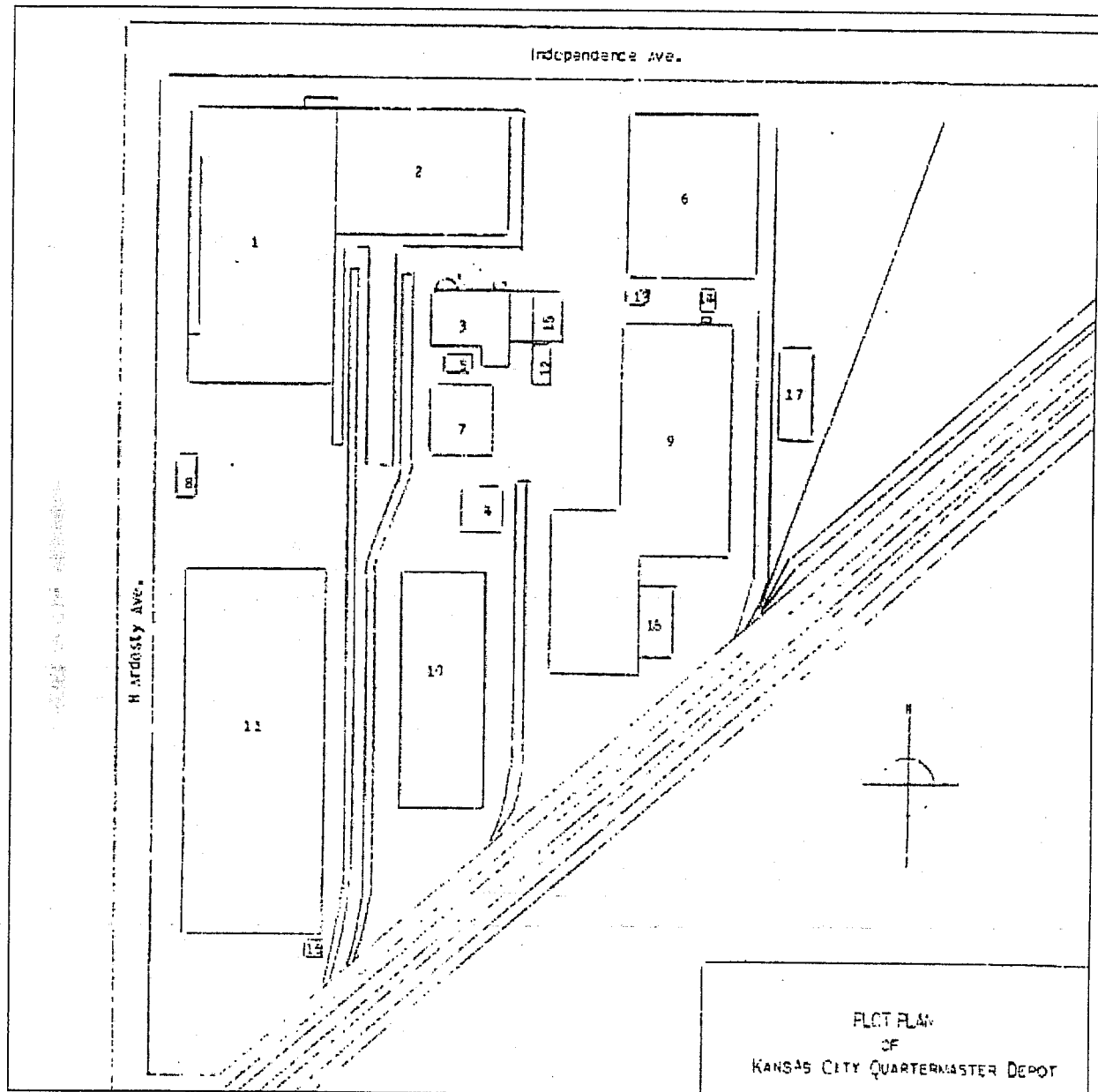


Figure 7. Plot Plan
From: "Army Service Forces,
Station Storage Conferences: Tour of Kansas City Quartermaster Depot,"
19 September 1945.

In addition to the functions performed on site at the Hardesty complex, the Kansas City Quartermaster Depot was responsible for the operation of three sub-depots located in St. Joseph, Missouri; Leavenworth, Kansas; and Omaha, Nebraska. It also supervised the Bluff City Shoe Reconstruction Facility in Hannibal, Missouri.

End of World War II

After the surrender of all German troops of 7 May 1945, May 8th was declared as V-E Day (Victory in Europe). This led to the activation in the Quartermaster Corps of "Period I Plan" for "Readjustment and Demobilization." The plan was issued by the Storage and Distribution Division, and set out in detail the functions and responsibilities, preparatory measures, and activities of the plan. A "Readjustment and Demobilization Officer" was designated. The surrender of Japan on 14 August 1945 brought about "Period II" for "Readjustment and Demobilization." Swift action was taken in the summer of 1945 for the demobilization of the functions of the KCQD. Certain office and warehouse activities were moved to the American Radiator Building. The Chemical Warfare Services ceased its operations on 10 August 1945, and clothing that required deimpregnation was diverted to Columbus, Ohio. All ration assembly was ceased as soon as balanced components were utilized. Certain requisitions were canceled, planned storage space was readjusted, and shipments were diverted enroute. Components of emergency rations were authorized for sale in the Sales Stores at posts, camps, and stations.

The vast majority of work involved after the Allied victory in World War II was strictly related to demobilization. The only new activity recorded was the activation of the American Graves Renovation Division in August 1945.⁶⁴ Among the demobilization activities was the routine destruction of records from the period; indeed, the few remaining records from this period at the Kansas City branch of the National Archives pertain only to accounts of the destruction of records, transfer or release of personnel, and disposal of items. Staff working in the procurement division from 1945 through at least 1947 now had objectives completely reversed from their wartime activities -- instead of procuring supplies for the KCQD, they sent out bids in order to dispose of surplus property.⁶⁵ The St. Joseph and Omaha Sub-Depots were inactivated in 1946. As part of the "Deactivation of Depots Under Phase Three of the Quartermaster Post War Plan", large quantities of supplies were still received through 1947 from other depots. The Savannah and Montgomery Depots were cleared to ship 3 and 5 cars per day respectively, and the Elmira Depot was also cleared to ship supplies to the KCQD.⁶⁶ Although several million dollars worth of surplus property was still available in April of 1947, it had nonetheless decreased in volume to such a degree that consolidation to a very small area in building #9 was possible.⁶⁷ Building #6 was now occupied by the Storage Division, and the first and second floors of Building #10 were assigned to AGRD.⁶⁸

Although reductions in force had begun in 1945, returning veterans were nonetheless offered jobs at the KCQD. The Kansas City Quartermaster Depot became a Sub-Depot of the Chicago Quartermaster Depot effective 1 July 1947. A personnel ceiling for the Kansas City Sub-Depot was set at 157 graded employees and 121 ungraded employees as of 30 June 1947, a reduction of force of approximately 400 employees from 11 April 1947. This was in addition to the numerous RIFs which had already taken place. All personnel functions were transferred to the Chicago Depot. Employees who could not transfer to the Chicago office were informed of other employment opportunities as Quartermaster employees were urgently needed in other areas, particularly Tokyo, Okinawa, and Korea.

Files after 1947 are non-existent at the Kansas City branch of the National Archives. City directories indicate that the Quartermaster retained a presence at the site after World War II up through 1953, but the extent of that presence is yet undetermined. From these records, however, it is clear that the main function of the property was in use other than the Quartermaster after World War II:

1948

Independence & Hardesty: U.S. War Department Headquarters, KCMO; U.S. Army Air Force Recruiting District; Kansas City Signal Center; Army Effects Bureau; Quartermaster Depot Headquarters
601 Hardesty: U.S. War Department; American Graves Registry Service

1949

601-05 Hardesty: U.S. Army & Air Force Kansas/Missouri Recruiting District; Army Organized Reserves Corps; Kansas City Quartermaster Activities; Kansas City Records Center AGO; Kansas City Signal Center; Regional Post Engineers

1950-53

601-05 Hardesty: Kansas City Quartermaster Activities; Kansas City Records Center AGO; Kansas City Signal Center; Regional Post Engineers; Missouri Engineer Detachment

1955

601-05 Hardesty: Kansas City Records Center AGO

1956-57

601-05 Hardesty: Kansas City Records Center AGO; USPO Money Order Center; Reserve Training Center No. 2

1959

601-05 Hardesty: Kansas City Records Center AGO; USPO Money Order Center; Reserve Training Center No. 2; Market Center

1960

601-05 Hardesty: U.S. Department of Defense-Army; Kansas City Records Center; USPO Money Order; Reserve Training Center No. 2

In 1960, the property transferred ownership from the Department of Defense to the GSA, although some military use has continued up through the end of the 1990s.

Endnotes

¹Erna Risch, *Quartermaster Support of the Army: A History of the Corps 1775-1939* (Washington, D.C.: Center of Military History, United States Army, 1989) p. iii, 740.

²Ibid., p. 1.

³Ibid., p. 735.

⁴Ibid., p. 736.

⁵Erna Risch, *The Quartermaster Corps: Organization, Supply, and Services*, vol. I (Washington, D.C.: Center of Military History, United States Army, 1995) p. 4.

⁶Ibid., p. 5.

⁷Ibid.

⁸Risch, *Quartermaster Support of the Army*, pp. 739-740.

⁹Risch, *The Quartermaster Corps: Organization, Supply, and Services*, vol. I, p. 8.

¹⁰Ibid.

¹¹Ibid.

¹²Ibid., p. 323.

¹³Ibid., p. 15.

¹⁴Ibid., p. 24.

¹⁵Ibid., pp. 323, 326.

¹⁶Ibid., p. 324.

¹⁷Ibid., p. 325.

¹⁸Ibid., pp. 325-326.

¹⁹Ibid., p. 326.

²⁰Ibid., 329.

²¹Ibid., p. 330.

²²Ibid., p. 332.

²³Ibid., p. 333.

²⁴Ibid., p. 332-333.

²⁵Ibid., p. 334, 336-337.

²⁶*The Kansas City Plan*: From the beginning of the emergency period, the Quartermaster Corps was interested in civilian facilities that might be available for storage. The problem faced with nonperishable supplies finally forced the QMC to develop a plan that handled this issue. Nonperishable foods were now procured directly from the canners in a centralized manner by field buyers. These canned goods might be stored for as long as a year before needed, and to prevent occupying depot storage space, the government required the canners to store the materials on-site. This soon placed a great burden on the processors, especially the West coast canners who had protracted growing seasons of up to 300 days. The only workable solution was to utilize commercial warehouses. However, the War Department didn't want to lease the space without knowing in advance how much it needed. On the other hand, it still needed to know how much was available in an area on a short notice. In June 1941, the OQMG outlined a method whereby the depots could negotiate a term contract with an association of warehousemen in an area. The War Department Commercial Warehouse Pool Plan, popularly known as *the Kansas City Plan* since it grew out of an agreement devised by the Kansas City Quartermaster Depot and the Kansas City Warehouse Association, utilized a single agreement for all the facilities needed in an urban community. Under the Kansas City Plan, all the warehousemen in a given urban area agreed to handle all the supplies and would guarantee that a certain proportion of the storage space of its members would be available on a short notice. For example, 2 percent might be required with 5 days notice, 5 percent in 10 days, and 10 percent in 15 days. A performance bond was posted as a guarantee. The Kansas City Plan was so widely used that the number of areas in which the Federal Emergency Warehouse Association operated increased from thirteen in November 1942 to forty-two by the fall of 1944. Risch, *The Quartermaster Corps: Organization, Supply, and Services*, vol. I, pp. 336-337.

²⁷Ibid., p. 333.

²⁸ "Historical Record: Summary," n.d., p. 1.

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- ²⁹ Ibid.
- ³⁰ Ibid., p. 2.
- ³¹ "National Cloak and Suit Company," The Kansas City Star, 7 June 1919.
- ³² "Store Prepares for Bow," The Kansas City Star, 2 March 1928.
- ³³ "Suit Over Bellas-Hess," The Kansas City Star, 12 April 1932.
- ³⁴ "Historical Record: Summary," p. 8a.
- ³⁵ Ibid., p. 2.
- ³⁶ Ibid., p. 3.
- ³⁷ Ibid., pp. 4-8.
- ³⁸ "Historical Record: Week ending October 4, 1941," p. 1.
- ³⁹ "Historical Record: Week ending March 18, 1942," p. 1.
- ⁴⁰ "Historical Record: Week ending November 7, 1942," p. 1.
5. ⁴¹ "Functional Organizational Manual Kansas City Quartermaster Depot," 31 August 1945, pp. 2-
- ⁴² "Historical Record: Week ending March 18, 1942," p. 335.
- ⁴³ Schuyler Dean Hoslett, Aspects of Army Depot Administration: Papers on Administration at the Kansas City Quartermaster Depot, (New York: American Historical Company, 1945) p. 38.
- ⁴⁴ "Completion Report: Construction of Additional Warehouse Facilities, Kansas City Quartermaster Depot, Independence & Hardesty Avenues, Kansas City, Missouri," 30 November 1942, Exhibit "C" Sheet 3 of 7.
- ⁴⁵ "Completion Report Covering Construction and Completion of Clothing Renovating Plant at Kansas City Quartermaster Depot" Office of the Constructing Quartermaster, Station No. 7047, 1941, p. 19.
- ⁴⁶ Ibid., p. 10.
- ⁴⁷ Ibid., p. 24.
- ⁴⁸ "Historical Record: Week ending October 4, 1941"
- ⁴⁹ Ibid., p. 16.
- ⁵⁰ Telephone interview with George Francis, Chemical Warfare Services employee, 2 June 1999.
- ⁵¹ Ibid.
- ⁵² "Completion Report: Construction of Additional Warehouse Facilities", p. 5.
- ⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ Ibid., p. 6.

⁵⁶ Ibid., p. 5.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ Ibid., p. 6.

⁶⁰ Ibid., p. 5.

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ Ibid., p. 6.

⁶⁴ "Historical Records: Week ending 9 August 1945."

⁶⁵ Telephone interview with Kathryn Moore Swaggerty, Employee KCQD, Procurement Division, 26 June 1999.

⁶⁶ "Weekly Historical Report," Kansas City Quartermaster Depot Intra-Depot Communications, 8 April 1947.

⁶⁷ "Weekly Historical Report," Kansas City Quartermaster Depot Intra-Depot Communications, 15 April 1947.

⁶⁸ ⁶⁸ "Weekly Historical Report," Kansas City Quartermaster Depot Intra-Depot Communications, 29 April 1947.

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